

LOCAL WALKING TRAILS

By Marylou Stone

GAMBRILL STATE PARK - RED MAPLE TRAIL

I hiked this trail in the early morning and was privileged to watch two fawns and their mother stroll through the forest.

The trail begins at the Trailhead Parking Lot on the east side of Gambrill Park Road. There are many other trails leaving from this parking lot so make sure that you follow the trail marked with red blazes. The trail is 2 miles long and makes a loop and will return to this parking lot. The trail is also somewhat rocky, so do not wear sandals.

In the spring this trail has beautiful mountain laurel blooming. In the fall the leaves are a brilliant color. And in the summer it provides a cool shady walk. During the entire hike I was serenaded by several Wood Thrushes although I could never spot them. Their song sounds like someone playing a flute. I did spot several Indigo Buntings, a White Breasted Nuthatch, a Downy Woodpecker, an Alder Flycatcher, a Scarlet Tanager, and a Blue Jay. Enjoy the hike.

